

# LaDOTD Acquirer

April – June 2004

Volume 11, No. 2

*"What acquiring minds want to know"*

## Inside:

TEA 21 Extension

Fatalities Up

Beverly Hansen Retirement

Father's Day

Welcome/Congrats

Hurricane Season

"Phishing"

Origins of the Police Jury

And, of course, "Quotes"

## AASHTO conference successful; budget causes concern

### Director's Report

By: Jim Dousay

Charles Hudson and I have recently returned from the AASHTO Right of Way and Utilities Conference, which was held in Seattle, Washington. Also attending were Jerome Lohman and Billy Moore of LTM. I was privileged to moderate the outdoor advertising session at the conference, which wound up being quite lively! It turns out the experts on the panel had quite different views on the valuation



of billboards. There were four panelists: Jeff and Paul Wright of Scottsdale, AZ; Dwaine Stoops of Nixa, MO; and Rudy Aguilar from Baton Rouge. The Wrights felt relocation was preferable to condemnation, because billboards are a valuable asset to the companies. Stoops felt that there was a lot of difference between valuing billboards for taxing purposes and for takings. Rudy felt that appraisers needed to correctly identify and separate the revenue stream into real estate and non-real estate components.

The discussion was even written up in the *Outdoor Outlook*, a publication of the Outdoor Advertising Association.

Charles Hudson made a presentation in another session about the Joint Reviews he conducts. All in all it was a good conference. The conference will be in Austin, TX, next year.

### Operating Budget

The new administration is looking for innovative resources to funnel more funds into our construction program. The Department's operating budget is being reviewed to insure a manageable balance with the Highway Trust Fund. Department's acquisition program.

Several years ago the Real Estate Section had our number of authorized positions cut by 10%. We were asked by General Patin to submit an attrition plan on how we could manage our Real Estate program by losing approximately 20 positions. The attrition plan submitted then was based on expanding automation and the use of consultants. Great strides have been made in automation, and currently we are consulting out 95% of appraisals and approximately 70% of all acquisitions. Our section now has a

*(Continued on p. 4)*

## TEA 21 Extended Two More Months

<http://www.highways.org/>

**L**ate on Thursday (April 29), Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Chairman Kit Bond (R-MO) agreed to allow the Senate to approve the third extension of TEA 21 for another two months.

Chairman Bond had held up Senate consideration of the measure earlier Thursday to protest Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle's (D-SD) refusal to allow a conference committee to be formed on the six-year highway reauthorization bill. Sen. Daschle has conditioned his willingness to allow a



conference committee to be formed on holding a bipartisan "pre-conference" meeting with Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN). The minority leader wants to receive assurances in the pre-conference meeting that

Senate Republicans will back the Senate-passed \$318 billion funding level and guarantee full Democratic participation in the conference committee.

In the end, Senator Bond was able to express his displeasure at Sen. Daschle's demand for a pre-conference but was forced to back down and allow the extension bill to proceed. Failing to do so would have forced a shutdown of the Federal Highway Administration and would have halted federal-aid road construction projects nationwide.

The new TEA 21 extension expires on June 30, 2004. Many Washington-insiders speculate that Congress must complete work by then or Presidential election politics will force the term of any further extension beyond the November elections. ♦



## Highway fatalities up

[www.transportation.org/publications/](http://www.transportation.org/publications/)

**T**he National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) on Wednesday (April 26) made public its preliminary count of highway fatalities for 2003 - concluding that 43,220 people died on U.S. roadways that year, the highest number since 1990.



NHTSA reported that deaths in motorcycle and sport-utility-vehicle wrecks rose in 2003, boosting the overall

highway fatality count. The rate of fatalities remained the same as in 2002, despite the slightly higher number of actual deaths, because miles driven were up, NHTSA reported.

A piece of favorable news in the report was that vehicle-crash injuries declined by about 35,000 in 2003 - a development NHTSA credited to an increase in seat-belt use and safer vehicles. In addition, fatal crashes involving drivers ages 16-20 fell 3.7 percent, to 7,452

NHTSA Administrator Jeffrey Runge, an emergency-room physician, has pressed hard for tighter state seat-belt laws. Even though seat-belt use rose by 2003 to 79 percent in the U.S., fully 58 percent of the people killed on U.S. roads in 2003 were not belted in, Runge said.

Though passenger-car fatalities dropped by 3.8 percent in 2003, fatalities for people in popular sport-utility vehicles went up by 11 percent. Runge noted that SUV sales

went up by 12 percent during the period, and said a tendency of some SUVs to roll in wrecks contributed to their higher fatality rate. NHTSA also noted that 40 percent of all crash deaths nationwide were alcohol-related, about the same rate as in 2002. ♦



## Beverly Hansen's Retirement

**R**eview Appraiser Beverly Hansen retired in April after 30 years of service. A luncheon honoring Beverly was held April 14, 2004, at the Capital City Grill in Baton Rouge. Almost 40 people joined in the festivities.



A delicious cake was part of the party



Of course, there were presents!



Beverly is joined by Judy Rundell, Donna Stinson, Jennifer Lee, and Darlene Bourgeois

## Father's Day Quiz

[www.factmonster.com/spot/quiz/fathersday](http://www.factmonster.com/spot/quiz/fathersday)

1. Which father and daughter have both won Oscars?

- a. Bruce and Laura Dern
- b. Gwyneth and Bruce Paltrow
- c. Anjelica and John Huston

2. Jon Voight is the father of which Oscar-winning actress?

- a. Angelina Jolie
- b. Melanie Griffith
- c. Jodie Foster

3. Who was NOT one of the surrogate fathers in the movie *Three Men and a Baby*?

- a. Ted Danson
- b. Billy Crystal
- c. Tom Selleck



4. On the TV series *Father Knows Best* what did Robert Young's Jim Anderson do for a living?

- a. Insurance salesman
- b. Lawyer
- c. Stockbroker

5. Who played the father in 1951's *Father of the Bride*?

- a. Cary Grant
- b. Spencer Tracy
- c. Humphrey Bogart

6. Who played the father in the 1991 remake?

- a. Steve Martin
- b. Harrison Ford
- c. Jack Nicholson

7. Actress-model Liv Tyler didn't realize Aerosmith's Steve Tyler was her father until she was almost a teen. Who did she think was her dad before then?

- a. Alice Cooper
- b. Mick Jagger
- c. Todd Rundgren

8. Who played the two dads on television's *My Two Dads*?

- a. Gregory Harrison and Tom Hanks
- b. Tom Hanks and Paul Reiser
- c. Paul Reiser and Greg Evigan

9. Who played the adoptive father in 1991's *Big Daddy*?

- a. Adam Sandler
- b. Jim Carey
- c. Rob Schneider

10. Who played Colonel Fitts, the troubled father of Wes Bentley's Ricky in *American Beauty*?

- a. Chris Cooper
- b. Peter Gallagher
- c. Peter Berg

(Answers on p. 6)

## Director's Report

(Continued from p. 1)



Consultant Unit that manages all consultant contracts/projects in coordination with our Districts,

My view is that any possible reduction in the operating budget would have to be handled by attrition. Also, better management of charging time to projects, especially Federal Aid projects, could help reduce our operating budget.

### Utilities

The Chief Engineer is considering changes in the organization of the Utilities Unit that could affect their presence in the Real Estate Section. My recommendation would be to establish a Headquarters Utility Manager who is familiar with the technical aspects of utility relocation and could provide guidance to the District Utility Specialists. Anything that is decided will bring about some changes. Utility relocation is a very important part of the process and needs to be brought to the forefront. My hope is that the Department will choose a structure that will raise the status of the Utilities Unit. If the Department continues to push the Delivery Date concept (see the previous issue of the *Acquirer*), it would eventually allow utility relocation to be completed prior to construction. The utility companies operating budgets are .are currently being stressed with the letting of the TIMED projects, in conjunction with our normal letting program. The utility companies are having to borrow from Peter to pay Paul and once LTM accelerates the program, Peter might have to file for protection under Chapter 11.



I will keep you posted and these and other important matters. ♦

**"I know in my heart that man is good. That what is right will always eventually triumph. And there's purpose and worth to each and every life," – Ronald Reagan**

# Welcome to...

**Sharon Fabre**

Secretary 2  
Gang 161

# Congratulations to...

**Justin Bickham**, who was promoted to Real Estate Specialist 2

**Susie Kruse**, who was promoted to Real Estate Specialist 2

**Debbie Lamonica**, who was promoted to Real Estate Specialist 2

**Micah Solomon**, who was promoted to Real Estate Specialist 2

**Kia White**, who was promoted to Real Estate Specialist 2



Appraiser Rudy Aguilar addresses the recent AASHTO Right of way Conference in Seattle on the valuation of billboards. Jim Dousay, who moderated the session, looks on.



# It's that time of year again – be prepared

[www.dhh.state.la.us/offices/publications/](http://www.dhh.state.la.us/offices/publications/)

**L**ouisianians are all too familiar with Mother Nature's wrath in the form of tropical storms and hurricanes. We know all about hurricane preparedness, storing food and water for emergencies, planning for evacuations, and protecting our property from hurricane damage – or do we?

A survey conducted by the American Red Cross among people living in hurricane danger zones along the East Coast and Gulf Coast revealed that those who had experienced a hurricane in the past were the best prepared to face future hurricanes. Only 42 percent, however, said they already had a hurricane disaster supply kit on hand. Only 66 percent said they knew where they and their family members would stay if they were forced to evacuate because of a hurricane.



So, let's ask the question again: Are we really as prepared for hurricanes as we think we are? The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) and the Red Cross urge every Louisiana family to prepare early and thoroughly for

hurricanes, just as you would for any other natural disaster or public health emergency.

DHH gives the following advice for making hurricane preparations to best protect your entire family:

- ☑ Prepare an "insurance inventory" of important personal and business property. This inventory can help you recover damages suffered during a hurricane or other natural disaster. Ask your insurance agent to review your current policy to determine whether it is complete and up-to-date.
- ☑ Create a portable "important papers" file including copies of each family member's important documents. Store these in a secure location where you can reach them quickly when you need to prepare for an approaching storm.



- ☑ Develop a family preparation plan and teach each family member how to safely and quickly handle their hurricane preparation duties.
- ☑ Consider what will be done to help family members with special medical needs. Speak with your family doctor, home health care provider, pharmacist or other medical professional to learn what you can do to help prepare for each family member's special medical needs.
- ☑ Keep your vehicle in good running condition with a full tank of gas.
- ☑ Plan well in advance to determine where you will go during a hurricane-related evacuation, and make sure your travel plans will take you safely outside the "at-risk" area well in advance of the storm's arrival. Be prepared to leave the storm-threatened area several hours in advance.
- ☑ Stay calm, and remember to plan on funding your evacuation travel with cash, not credit cards.
- ☑ Leave your property in a secure condition by turning off electricity, water and other utilities at the source.
- ☑ Stay tuned to the local radio or TV broadcasts for storm status reports. Stay away from the storm area until local officials have given the "all clear" for safe travel. If local officials have advised evacuations, heed their warnings. Make sure to "set aside" adequate supplies of non-perishable food, water, medicines and other necessities long before the storm arrives. Protect your property before the bad weather begins. Make sure all family members and pets remain safely indoors, away from exposed glass. Park vehicles in the safest possible location to

minimize storm-related damage. Continuously monitor news and weather updates.

To learn more about how to make hurricane preparedness and response plans, visit these additional resources on the World Wide Web:

[www.dhh.state.la.us](http://www.dhh.state.la.us), [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov),  
[www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov), [www.loep.state.la.us](http://www.loep.state.la.us). ♦

## Gone “Phishing”?

**Online scams have increased dramatically in the past year, study says**

<http://tech.msn.com/howto/article>

**A** new study by research firm Gartner found that the number of online scams known as “phishing attacks” have spiked in the last year and that online consumers are frequently tricked into divulging sensitive information to criminals



Long a nuisance, phishing scams have exploded in the past year, Gartner says. The survey results suggest that 76 percent of all known or suspected phishing attacks occurred in the last six months, and 92 percent of known attacks happened in the 12 months preceding the study.

The study, which ended in April 2004, surveyed 5000 adult Internet users and found that around 3 percent of those surveyed reported giving up personal financial or personal information after being drawn into a phishing scam. Phishing scams use e-mail messages and Web pages designed to



look like correspondence from legitimate online businesses. The results suggest that as many as 30 million adults have experienced a phishing attack and that 1.78

million adults could have fallen victim to the scams, Gartner says.

Phishing attacks typically begin with e-mail messages purporting to come from established

companies. Web page links within the e-mail messages direct recipients to Web sites disguised as official company Web pages where the recipient is asked to enter personal information such as their social security number, account number, password, or credit card information.

The U.S. federal authorities and leading Internet service providers such as America Online, Earthlink, and Microsoft have taken a more aggressive stance on the scams.

In March the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) moved to stop a phishing scam that had tricked hundreds of Internet users into giving credit card and bank account numbers to Web sites that looked like those of AOL and PayPal, part of EBay. The FTC charged a Houston man with deceptive and unfair practices in that case, and the DOJ named him as a defendant in a criminal case it filed in Virginia. ♦



### Father's Day Quiz Answers

1.c., 2.a., 3.b., 4.a., 5.b., 6.a., 7.c., 8.c., 9.a., 10.a

## How's that again?

**Road signs can be confusing**

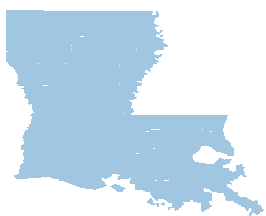


Next time you are lost, it may not be your fault!

Louisiana History**Origins of the Police Jury**[www.lpgov.org/facts](http://www.lpgov.org/facts)

**L**ouisiana is unique in the nation in that it has parishes which are governed in most cases by police juries. Parishes correspond to counties and police juries to county boards of commissioners or similar local governing bodies in other states.

Once Louisiana had counties. Shortly after the Louisiana territory was purchased by the United States, the newly created Legislative Council met in 1804 and divided the state into 12 counties. These were Orleans, German Coast, Acadia, LaFourche, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, Concordia, Atakapas, Opelousas, Rapides, Natchitoches and Ouachita. These counties proved too large for satisfactory administration and in 1807, the state was divided into 19 parishes based, for the most part, on the boundaries of the 21 ecclesiastical parishes established in 1762. Thus parish became the local government district.



Government of the 19 parishes was at first along lines established for the counties wherein county judges served as the chief governing officers. In 1807, the Legislative

Council and House of Representatives of the Territory of Orleans revised the parish form of government. A 12-member jury was created to serve with the parish judge and the justice of peace, both of the latter being appointive officials. This body was charged with responsibility for "execution of whatever concerns the interior and local police and for administration of the parish."

Another step was taken in 1810 when legislation created the office of sheriff for each parish and provided that he be paid from the "police assembly of the parish." An 1811 act made members of the police assembly elective and officially designated this body as a "police jury." Powers of the judges were reduced and justices of peace were made ex officio members. (In 1824, justices of peace were dropped from the police jury membership.) Two years later, in 1813, legislation provided for wards within parishes and for election of members from

wards to serve on the police juries. (Members were to serve without compensation and to be subject to a fine for non-attendance.)

Parish judges continued to serve on police juries as ex officio presidents until 1830 when legislation excluded them from jury membership. Police juries were gradually given added powers over the next two decades and began to function much as they do today. The Louisiana Constitution of 1845 dropped all references to counties.

**1974 Constitutional Change**

The 1974 constitution granted broad home rule authority to parishes and municipalities and reversed the traditional concept of local government as a "creature of the state" possessing only delegated authority. The constitution provides two ways for a police jury to secure home rule authority. The first method involves the creation of a parish charter commission and approval by the voters of a home rule charter. The second method permits parish voters to grant the police jury specific authority to exercise a power or perform a certain function. ♦

**WAKE UP LOUISIANA  
AND**

**Put the Brakes on Fatalities! Vehicle Crashes Are An Even Greater Threat to Life and Health in the United States than Crime!**

1. Drive as if your life depends on it.
2. Buckle up on every trip, every time.
3. If you have been drinking alcohol, **DO NOT DRIVE.**
4. Use properly-installed child safety seats for children ages 8 and under.
5. Drive responsibly and courteously rather than with dangerous disregard and recklessness.
6. Don't be a Tailgator! Don't follow too closely to the vehicle in front of you.
7. Slow down to the posted speed limit in construction and maintenance work zones.
8. Keep vehicles and tires properly maintained.
9. Wear an appropriate helmet when bicycling, skating, or riding a motorcycle or scooter.
10. Always stop and look left, right, left before crossing the streets and if walking on the side of a road, walk against (or opposite) the direction of traffic.
11. Look, Listen and Live at railroad crossings! Never stop your car on a railroad track.
12. Don't "hang out" on either side or behind large trucks or buses while driving your car – the truck and bus drivers cannot see you.

## **“Quotable”**

***"The reason people blame things on the previous generations is that there's only one other choice."*** - Doug Larson

***"Few things can help an individual more than to place responsibility on him, and to let him know that you trust him."*** - Booker T. Washington

***"Never attribute to malice that which can be adequately explained by stupidity."*** - Unknown

***"Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value."*** - Albert Einstein

***"There is nothing more frightful than ignorance in action."*** - Johann von Goethe

***"There is still no cure for the common birthday."*** - John Glenn

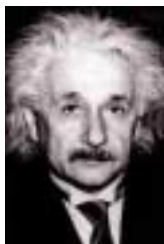
***"Never be haughty to the humble; never be humble to the haughty"*** - Jefferson Davis

***"We can try to avoid making choices by doing nothing, but even that is a decision."*** - Gary Collins

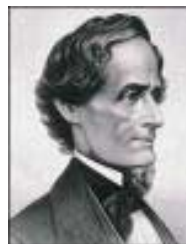
***"If your ship doesn't come in, swim out to it!"*** - Jonathan Winters



Carver



Einstein



Davis



Winters



***"In closing, let me thank you, the American people, for giving me the great honor of allowing me to serve as your president. When the Lord calls me home, whenever that day may be, I will leave with the greatest love for this country of ours and eternal optimism for its future. I now begin the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life. I know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead."***